

Town of Bartlett Selectmen's Office

Meeting Minutes: Monday, February 04, 2019

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, David Patch, Vicki Garland

Visitors: Julia King, Barry Trudeau, Kevin McEnaney, Darlene McEnancy John Smallcomb,

Annette Libby

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 03:30 PM.

David Shedd came in to apologize for the town hall roof leaking. Chairman Chandler told him that wasn't necessary as he had done what was normally done and it has been a tough winter. Shedd explained that there had been an ice jam above where he had shoveled. Shedd stated that he will replace the ceiling panels that were damaged. Chairman Chandler instructed him to go ahead and do that and that we would pay him as well as anyone else if he needed help in doing this. Chairman Chandler reminded him that we don't hold him responsible and we have never had a problem with what was done.

Selectman Garland inquired about a letter that the town had received from the Department of Revenue Administration that stated that we have an equalization rate of 89.1 %. Chairman Chandler explained that this ratio is used to modify the market value of properties in town. This includes land, buildings and manufactured housing in Bartlett for the 2018 tax year.

Selectman Garland requested at 03:40 PM to enter nonpublic session to conduct a legal discussion with the town attorney per NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (e). Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Selectman Garland made a motion at 04:00 PM to end the nonpublic session. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Pat Quinn (5VILLG-BIR-60) telephoned the Selectmen to complain about the town crew putting too much snow in her yard which covered up her rock. She lives at the end of Birch Street and the snow is being pushed onto her property. The Selectmen will take a look at the situation and discuss it with the Road Agent.

The Ad hoc Saco River Flood Advisory Committee members Angela Huertas, Ajith Dissanayake, Patsy Rogerson and Valerie Rothen met with the Selectmen regarding a petitioned warrant article that reads as follows:

ARTICLE. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for additional flood damage repairs not covered by FEMA and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$200,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes for up to five years and to determine the rate of interest thereon, with any additional balance to be raised by taxation. The total estimated additional costs of repairs not covered by FEMA is \$200,000.00 (2/3 majority vote by ballot required). Agreeable to a petition signed by William Fabrizio and others.

Huertas inquired if there was anything new. Chairman Chandler said that he is working with FEMA with concerns about the south side of the bridge and they all agree it is a problem. Chairman Chandler also mentioned that he has requested from our engineer to look over the quantity figures to see if they jive with his. Huertas also mentioned that they tried to not be too specific in the warrant article so they wouldn't be limited as there are four rivers that need work done to them and they want to be able to take care of whatever FEMA doesn't cover. It is a safety net as they don't know what will or will not be covered. Selectman Garland did mention that the Selectmen are trying to change the wording on last year's \$400,000.00 warrant article so that it can be used and not just in matching funds. Chairman Chandler mentioned that he doesn't think we will have to use the whole \$400,000.00. Rothen inquired if there is money left over can it be put aside for future years. Chairman Chandler replied no he didn't think so. Chairman Chandler mentioned that they are doing a warrant article to have a hydrological study done and if this is done we should have a clearer picture of what should be done. Smallcomb inquired as to the cost of the study. Chairman Chandler replied that we have been told it will be around \$50,000.00. (Chairman Chandler had a prior commitment and had to leave the meeting at 04:30 PM). Rogerson commented that we are all trying to accomplish the same things. K. McEnaney inquired as to why the hydrological study hadn't been on board earlier. Selectman Patch replied that earlier studies had indicated that it was a lot more money.

Bartlett Recreation Director, Annette Libby (no appointment), requested to speak again about her raise. She is putting in a warrant article for \$9,800.00 for a raise and she feels she should get the rest of what was voted on for last year. Selectman Garland informed Libby that she had contacted legal counsel at the NH Municipal Association and was advised that her warrant article would be advisory and not binding on the select board. The select board establishes the salaries or hourly pay for town employees. Selectman Garland also commented that this is becoming more like a popularity contest as she doesn't see anyone speaking out for the highway department to get raises and they have a hazardous job. Libby replied that she and Chief Roberts had asked for a group meeting and was denied. Selectman Garland stated that no one was denied and the Selectmen have met with all department heads and those meetings were all open to the public. Selectman Garland also mentioned that they are looking at giving all departments' substantial raises, not just across the board or a percentage raise. Libby commented that according to her W-2 she has only received \$8404.00 more in the eight years she has worked here. Jones explained that she can't go by her W-2 for a year as the first 13 weeks are at one rate and the other 39 at a different rate since raises don't take affect until April. Selectman Garland stated that they are working very hard on bringing everyone in to line with proper raises and not just focus on one employee as they are all equally deserving and it would be detrimental to the rest of the town employees to only do one person. K. McEnaney stated that at last year's town meeting it was a horrible way to add money for wages. He feels that it needed to be made clearer as to what would happen to the money. Jones spoke up and said that the Moderator clearly mentioned several times that it was a bottom line budget number not a line item one and they were recommendations only. Libby stated that she has spoken to Dufault Associates and is planning on signing up for the mutual fund and believes the town should contribute to it for the years she didn't have it. Once again it was explained to her that the long term employees had received the 2.65% instead of getting a raise that year.

Chairman Chandler telephoned the office and at that time former selectman Doug Garland popped into the meeting (no appointment) to ask about warrant articles. (Selectman Garland recused herself). Garland is submitting two warrant articles. One to have the hydrological study done for \$60,000.00 as he doesn't feel the \$50,000.00 is enough as he doesn't think the Engineer covered it all. The second article is to stop the Selectmen from using any of the money from last year's \$400,000.00 warrant article until the study is completed. Chairman Chandler reminded him that we are all trying to do the same thing. Garland will drop off his petitioned articles tomorrow.

The Selectmen signed checks, building permits and correspondence during the course of the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 05:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Medeiros, Sec.